

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/534,288  
Applicant : OBTATA et al  
Filed : May 9, 2005  
TC/A.U. :  
Examiner :

Docket No. : 2922-487  
Customer No. : 06449  
Confirmation No. :

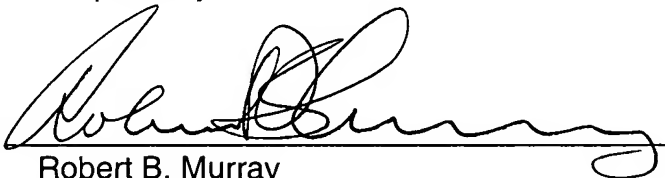
**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Director of the United States Patent  
and Trademark Office  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In compliance with applicants duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. 1.56, enclosed is a copy of the International Search Report in the corresponding international application. The relevance of the references is noted in the International Search Report and are provided herewith for Examiner's review.

Respectfully submitted,

By   
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RBM/cb

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|----------------------------------------------------------|---|----|---|--------------------------|-------------|
| <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE<br/>STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> |   |    |   | <i>Complete if Known</i> |             |
|                                                          |   |    |   | Application Number       | 10/534,288  |
|                                                          |   |    |   | Filing Date              | May 9, 2005 |
|                                                          |   |    |   | First Named Inventor     | OBATA et al |
|                                                          |   |    |   | Group Art Unit           |             |
|                                                          |   |    |   | Examiner Name            |             |
|                                                          |   |    |   | Confirmation No.         |             |
| Sheet                                                    | 1 | of | 1 | Attorney Docket Number   | 2922-487    |

| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS |                          |                             |                     |                                 |                                                    |                                                        |                |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Examiner<br>Initials*    | Cite<br>No. <sup>1</sup> | Foreign Patent Document     |                     |                                 | Name of Patentee or Applicant of<br>Cited Document | Date of Publication<br>of Cited Document<br>MM-DD-YYYY | T <sup>6</sup> |
|                          |                          | Office <sup>3</sup><br>Code | Number <sup>4</sup> | Kind <sup>5</sup><br>(if known) |                                                    |                                                        |                |
|                          | 1.                       | JP                          | 2001-126315         |                                 | Victor Co of Japan Ltd.                            | 5/11/01                                                | AB             |
|                          | 2.                       | JP                          | 2002-319185         |                                 | Sumitomo Metal Mining Co, Ltd.                     | 10/31/02                                               | AB             |
|                          | 3.                       | JP                          | 2002-332568         |                                 | Ishifuku Metal Ind Co Ltd.                         | 11/22/02                                               | AB             |
|                          | 4.                       | JP                          | 2003-160859         |                                 | Mitsubishi Materials Corp.                         | 6/6/03                                                 | AB             |
|                          | 5.                       | JP                          | 2003-293055         |                                 | Sumitomo Metal Mining Co. Ltd.                     | 10/15/03                                               | AB             |
|                          | 6.                       | JP                          | 2004-131747         |                                 | Sumitomo Metal Mining Co. Ltd.                     | 4/30/04                                                | AB             |
|                          | 7.                       | JP                          | 2000-109943         |                                 | Furuya Kinzoku:KK Sony Corp.                       | 4/18/00                                                | AB             |
|                          |                          |                             |                     |                                 |                                                    |                                                        |                |
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|                          |                          |                             |                     |                                 |                                                    |                                                        |                |
| Examiner<br>Signature    |                          |                             |                     |                                 | Date<br>Considered                                 |                                                        |                |

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup>Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup>See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup>Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code. <sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached. AB indicates that only an English language abstract is attached.